

# International Standardization Agreements

September 2001



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## CURRENT SITUATION

As of 9 July 2001, only 187 cross-reference matches between MilSpecs and international standardization agreements (ISAs) out of some 2,400 ISAs could be found in the ASSIST repository. The ASSIST needs updating. Under the auspices of the Interoperability and Logistics Readiness IPT, there is a current effort to update the ASSIST from the 2001 AAP-4, *NATO Standardization Agreement and Allied Publication*, document with missing ISAs, and if possible link implementing specifications. The AAP-4, which lists all promulgated ISAs, is updated annually. Promulgated ISAs are ratified by a sufficient number of nations to become official.

The Air Force (AF) International Military Standardization Work Management System (IMS/WMS) database contains all AF-managed ISAs, as well as some others, that were promulgated. The IMS/WMS is updated continually. The AF-managed ISAs are also in the AAP-4. In many cases, the IMS/WMS contains a more current version of the ISA than the ASSIST. An arrangement is being made between the AF International Standardization Office (ISO) and the Defense Automated Production Services (DAPS) to update the ASSIST on current and future ISAs.

No comparisons have been made among the ASSIST and the Army and Navy ISA databases.

## DEFINITION OF NEED OR OPPORTUNITY

The current standardization document business process does not capture and maintain complete ISA information within a centrally accessible location. Users must access disparate databases for ISA information. In some cases, historical data are not maintained. Complete ISA information is necessary because some ISAs refer to Military Specifications and Standards as their implementing document. By consolidating or linking management information databases maintained by IMS/WMS, Defense Standardization Program (DSP), and other military services databases, time spent on research and maintenance of ISA information can be reduced greatly.

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## Problem #1

Supersession information on military specifications and standards is contained in ASSIST, but none exists for ISAs (i.e., information referring to a replacement ISA for a canceled ISA). The current policy does not address the issuance of supersession information for ISAs. Supersession information on military specifications and standards is necessary for procurement and acquisition strategy (e.g., program management). Because some ISAs refer to military specifications and standards as the implementing document, it is necessary to have a complete supersession information trail.

The AF IMS/WMS database contains supersession information on replacement ISAs but not on canceled ISAs because the canceled ISAs are not kept in the IMS/WMS. No historical information pertaining to canceled ISAs exists. Limited historical copies or information on previous ISA editions are kept in the IMS/WMS, but only the last edition, for example. When a replacement ISA is revised, the supersession information is lost.

### EXAMPLE

The ISA Profile for AIR-STD-17/15 and AIR-STD-17/18 in ASSIST indicated they were canceled on Feb 18, 1983; however, the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) from NAVAIR for both the AIR-STD-17/15 and AIR-STD-17/18 indicated they were superseded by AIR-STD-25/6. ASSIST did not provide supersession information.

The OPR also indicated that an Air Standards Coordinating Committee (ASCC) Handbook contained supersession data. The ASCC Handbook was revised annually until 1999. The Air Force International Standardization Office (LTC Bernard Ela) indicated that the ASCC handbook was replaced by the IMS/WMS database. We did not know when AIR-STD-25/6 superseded AIR-STD-17/15 and AIR-STD-17/18. We found that the current edition of the AIR-STD-25/6 was the 1991 edition, which did not contain supersession information, but replaced the 1986 edition.

## Problem #2

Point of Contact (POC) for ISAs in ASSIST is referred to as the “U.S. National POC Information.” ASSIST does not distinguish if the POC is the Head of Delegation (HOD), OPR, Coordinating Member<sup>1</sup>, or participant. DoD 4120.24-M does not mention “U.S. National POC Information,” but refers to OPR as being the POC for any proposed changes or cancellations to the U.S. implementing docu-

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<sup>1</sup> Each Air Standards Coordinating Committee (ASCC) Working Party has one Coordinating Member who is responsible to the Assistant for Standardization for national issues and to the Working Party Standing Committee for actions arising from Working Party meetings. The Working Party also may have Project Officers. [Definition from ASCC Web page.]

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ment for an ISA. The POC terminology in ASSIST needs to be consistent with the OPR in the policy.

### Problem #3

Many “U.S. National POC Information” entries in ASSIST are obsolete or non-existent. In some cases, POC information changes often with some working committees. Because some of the ISAs refer to military specifications and standards as the implementing document, it is necessary for the Preparing Activity (PA) of the implementing document to contact the appropriate ISA POC for coordinating changes to a document. Today, PAs do not have an easy way of getting the updated POC information other than contacting the Departmental Standardization Office (DepSO), the International Standardization Office (ISO), or the Defense Standardization Program Office (DSPO), or researching DSP and the ISO databases. Today, electronic listings readily identify such POC information as OPR, HODs, Coordinating Members, National Delegates, and so forth on the DSP IPT portion of the DSP Web page under the heading “Items of Joint IPT Interest.” Listings that are updated annually will be a useful source for finding the updated POC.

#### EXAMPLE

STANAG 1135 listed Mr. Steven Anderson, WL/POSF, in ASSIST as the U.S. National POC, but we found that he could not be reached. Mr. Anderson was no longer associated with STANAG 1135. After an e-mail inquiry to the AF DepSO, we found that the IMS/WMS listed Ms. Patricia Liberio, AFRL/PRSF, as the HOD, and several Coordinating Members. The DSP database showed Mr. Nick Makris, WR-ALC/SFT, as the “Participant” in the working committee (AC/112) for the STANAG 1135. Further, Mr. Makris claimed that he is the OPR in the e-mail exchange with the AF DepSO.

### Problem #4

We also discovered a disconnect between two sections of the ASSIST database—the ISA information and its implementing documents. One section deals with the specifications and standards and their associated management information. The other section deals with the ISA and its management information. Each section requires the sponsor of the document to provide certain management information on the ASSIST Print Order form before the document can be sent to DAPS for archiving into ASSIST. The Print Order form (DAPS-PHILA 4120/1 1/98 form) for an ISA requires listing of the implementing document. Likewise, the Spec/Standard Print Order (different than the one for ISA) asks if the document implements an ISA.

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## EXAMPLE

*ISAs*—When an ISA is sent to DAPS, the Print Order form asks for the title and number of the implementing document, quite often the implementing military specification. For example, AIR-STD-20/21C NOT 1 cites MIL-STD-1289C NOT 1 as the implementing document. After the ISA is in DAPS repository, AIR-STD-20/21C NOT 1 can be found in the ASSIST under the “Document Profile—ISA Profile” of the “Document Analysis” part of the ISA section of ASSIST.

*Military Specification as Implementing Document*—When a Military Specification (MilSpec) serves as the implementing document for an ISA, the ISA should be referenced in Section 6 of the MilSpec. The ISA document also should be stated on the Print Order form for the Military Specification before it is submitted to DAPS. After the MilSpec is in DAPS repository, the ISA implemented by the MilSpec can be found under the “Document Profile—General” of the “Document Analysis” part of the Spec/Standard section of ASSIST (e.g., MIL-STD-1289C NOT 1 implements AIR-STD-20/21 and STANAG 3899).

## EXAMPLE

The ISA Profile for STANAG 3899, ED.2 (2) in ASSIST indicated that no management information was entered for this STANAG, including any information on the U.S. implementing document. To this end, STANAG 3899 will not be reflected in the “ISA Document Cross-Reference” of the ISA section of ASSIST, because of the missing management information. Only MIL-STD-1289C NOT 1 is cross-referenced with the AIR STD 20/21 because management information was entered. This example illustrates that the user receives incomplete information.

Often, the sponsors for the ISA and the MilSpecs are from two different organizations that will enter the information in their respective part of ASSIST (i.e., ISA in the ISA section of ASSIST and the MilSpec in the Spec/Standard section of ASSIST). There is need to link the two sections in ASSIST.

It is imperative that the DAPS-PHILA 4120/1 1/98 form be filled out completely and submitted for each ISA ratified by the United States. Also, the MilSpec Print Order form needs to be filled out correctly listing all applicable ISAs which the MilSpec implements. However, it is possible not to enter the applicable ISAs in the MilSpec Print Order form, since it is not mandatory for entering into ASSIST.

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# RECOMMENDATIONS

## Recommendation #1

Build ASSIST into a comprehensive DoD repository of ISAs and POC information. From the present forward, allow DAPS to maintain historical ISAs and supersession information on ISAs.

## Recommendation #2

Maintain updated POC information in ASSIST by

- establishing a process where the ISO notifies the DSPO or other central DoD POC of changes to ISAs,
- requiring DSPO annually to audit a sample of ASSIST ISAs to ensure accuracy, and
- maintaining current listings of HODs, Coordinating Members, National Delegates, and other POC information on the DSP Web page to facilitate identification of the OPRs when an OPR cannot be found or contacted in ASSIST.

## Recommendation #3

Assure that the Working Group/Working Party is entered into ASSIST against the ISA to facilitate the search for a new OPR, and help update ASSIST when the OPR information is obsolete in ASSIST. Possible wording would be “(Working Group/Working Party)” after “Sponsor” in *Document Profile—ISA Profile* of ASSIST. The Working Group/Working Party information will be useful during the annual DSPO audit of ASSIST.

## Recommendation #4

Link or combine POC and other management information of the AF IMS/WMS, DPSO, and other Military Services databases to reduce the research and maintenance time (information can be updated once and found without switching to another database).

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## Recommendation #5

Add PA responsibilities to DoD 4120.24-M, paragraph C6.2.6, with respect to ISA coordination as follows:

“C6.2.6.3. Circulate any drafts of the implementing document to the ISO, as identified in ASSIST, for the ISA (as a review activity), in addition to regular military and industry coordination.”

“C6.2.6.4. Consider comments submitted from ISO or OPR as military comments (i.e., essential or suggested). Comments can be submitted directly to the PA from the ISO focal point for the ISA or OPR.”

## Recommendation #6

Add ISA procedures to DoD 4120.24, paragraph C6.5.3, concerning implementation as follows:

“C6.5.3.5. The OPRs should execute a DD Form 1865 to ensure that ISOs for referenced ISAs are shown as review activities for implementing standardization documents. Alternatively, DSPO may authorize DAPS to perform a one-time update to add ISOs on implementing documents as a reviewing activity, thereby eliminating the need to prepare individual 1865s.”

“C6.5.3.6. The OPR ensures that the PA for any standardization document that implements the ISA is on distribution for the draft ISA.”

## Recommendation #7

ISOs and OPRs should include themselves on ASSIST Alert to be notified of any changes to the implementing documents.

## Recommendation #8

Change the “National POC” to “OPR” in ASSIST so that it will be consistent with the OPR terminology in the policy.

## Recommendation #9

Provide a linkage between the two sections of ASSIST. One use would be to perform a check in ASSIST to search for any ISA/MilSpec matches when the sponsor of either the ISA or the MilSpec submits the Print Order form. If there is a match, but the management information does not contain the necessary information to link the ISA and MilSpec, ASSIST should flag it or reject it until matching information is filled in, depending on the scenario. For example, the MilSpec Print Order form might not reference the ISA, but ASSIST might find that the



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ISA references the MilSpec. Alternatively, the ISA Print Order form might reference an implementing MilSpec, but the MilSpec might not reference that ISA. DAPS should advise the sponsor of the missing information. The PA shall add the ISA information to the “Notes” section of the specification/standard in accordance with MIL-STD 961/962.

NOTE: Of the 2,400 ISAs in the ASSIST database, there are only 187 cross-reference matches between MilSpecs and ISAs, indicating a need to close the gap on cross-reference matches between two sections of ASSIST and provide for cross-reference accuracy check.

## Recommendation #10

Add the FSC and ISA fields to the “PA” filters in the “ISA Document Cross-Reference” of the ISA section of ASSIST. (The linkage between the two sections of ASSIST will allow for these filters.) This information will help in the management analysis of ISAs.